



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

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**District Man Sentenced to 40 Years For Violent Stabbing  
And Attempted Sexual Assault of Woman Sleeping in Her Home**

WASHINGTON - Rashaun I. Gee, 23, of the District, was sentenced today to 40 years in prison for breaking into a home in the 500 block of 14<sup>th</sup> Street SE in the middle of the night, repeatedly stabbing a 23-year-old woman who was living there, and attempting to sexually assault her, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Gee, of the 100 block of 15<sup>th</sup> Street NE, was found guilty on September 17, 2010, in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia of all five counts in the case – first degree burglary while armed, assault with intent to kill while armed, aggravated assault while armed, malicious disfigurement while armed and attempted first degree sexual abuse while armed.

The Honorable Russell F. Canan, who presided over the trial, sentenced Gee this morning. Upon his release, Gee will be on supervised release for five years and will have to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

The evidence at trial established that just after midnight on October 7, 2008, Gee broke into the victim's home through the kitchen window while she was sleeping. One other roommate was also in the home asleep. Gee went down the stairs to her basement bedroom. The victim saw him come down the stairs, grabbed her cell phone, and ran into the bathroom. While she was on the telephone with 911, Gee came into the bathroom and immediately started stabbing her in her abdomen and chest. The victim fought Gee.

As she tried to escape into the laundry room, Gee continued to stab the victim on her back and the back of her limbs. He also attempted to sexually assault her. She continued to fight him and, ultimately, he left. Gee stabbed her a total of 17 times, and several of those wounds created a grave risk of death to her. Evidence at trial also established that Gee was identified as the assailant because he left his fingerprints on the point of entry (the kitchen window), and a shirt found in a nearby alley had the victim's blood on the hem and Gee's DNA on the neckline.

During the sentencing hearing, Judge Canan commented that “some cases call out for the imposition of the most serious sentence.” Due to the “savage brutality” exhibited by Gee and the lifelong impact his crimes have had on the victims, this was one of those rare cases, the judge declared. He stated that Gee’s acts were “so far outside normal behavior in terms of compassion and empathy” that his first concern as the sentencing judge was for the protection of the community.

In announcing the guilty verdict, U.S. Attorney Machen noted that this case was successfully investigated and prosecuted with a large team of extremely dedicated individuals.

U.S. Attorney Machen commended numerous members of the Metropolitan Police Department, including the lead MPD Detective, Wallace Carmichael, and lead Mobile Crime Lab Officers Natasha Pettus and Fred Brown. He also recognized and thanked numerous other MPD officers, detectives, and sergeants who dedicated significant time and effort to the case, including Officer Matthew Batko, Officer Keith Raynor, Officer David Murray, Detective Ingrid Harkins, Detective Don Juan Monroe, Officer Jeffrey Scharf, Mobile Crime Lab Officer Dwayne Mitchell, Sergeant James Ginger, Detective David Adams, Sergeant Julius Hunter, and Sergeant Ronald Reid. He also commended the outstanding work and guidance provided by MPD Crime Laboratory Manager Lisa Brewer, Quality Assurance Manager Rebecca Post, DNA Analyst Jessica Skillman, Forensic Scientist Kristy Hopkinson, and Hair/Fiber Analyst Harold Deadman. He praised the tireless work by veteran MPD Latent Print Analyst Hayward Bennett.

Mr. Machen praised the assistance of Victim Witness Services Coordinator Katina Adams and Victim Witness Advocates Iris Vega and Melissa Milam, of the U.S. Attorney’s Office, who provided invaluable emotional support to the victim and her family. He also thanked Paralegals Joyce Arthur and Tiffany Jones and Legal Assistant Ashley Patterson. He recognized and thanked Litigation Services Unit Operations Manager Linda McDonald and Legal Assistant Tierra Nanches, and Litigation Support Specialist Ron Royal, who provided extremely helpful assistance both before and during trial. He also gave thanks to Carolyn Crank, Community Outreach Specialist, for keeping the community apprised of the developments in this case and for soliciting numerous community impact statements from individuals who live in the neighborhood where the crime occurred. The Court considered and acknowledged these compelling statements.

U.S. Attorney Machen thanked U.S. Attorney’s Office Intelligence Specialist Lawrence Grasso for his assistance in several aspects of the investigation of this case. He gave particular commendation to First District Officer Robert M. Johnson who, through good old-fashioned police work, found the critical piece of forensic evidence that made this prosecution possible. And, finally, he commended Assistant U.S. Attorney Sharon Marcus-Kurn who indicted and prosecuted the case and Peter Taylor who prosecuted the case at trial with Ms. Marcus-Kurn.